

4 Corners Air Quality Task Force Monitoring Work Group November 8, 2006 – Meeting Notes

Participants:

Judy Schuenemeyer, Cortez LWV; Koren Nydick, Mountain Studies Institute; Kandy Le Moine, Volunteer Coordinator, Farmington Museum; Theodore Mueller, Ret. Professor Adams State University – Aztec; Gordon Pierce, Air Pollution Control Division, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment; George San Miguel, Natural Resource Manager, Mesa Verde National Park; Reid Smith, BP America; Michael King, Environmental Scientist, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Air Quality; Erik Aaboe, New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau; Terry Hertel, New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau

Terry Hertel – Group Coordinator
Kandy Le Moine – Note Taker

Gap Analysis:

Matrix

The group discussed modifications to the matrix spreadsheet. One topic was the addition of a preface or narrative that will contain explanations of each sampling program represented by the sites in the matrix. The explanation would also provide links to the website of each program represented. Other topics were “fine tuning” issues, such as grouping sites by program (some sites may be listed more than once because they may fall into more than one program), changing “pollutants of concern” to “criteria pollutants”, adding a column specifying program, and adding a column denoting distance from Durango, which seems to be the “center” of study area. Another change would be to address any reference to sampling regarding the proposed Desert Rock power plant in narrative form instead of in the matrix. This concept was also endorsed regarding references to VOC’s and HAP’s. Michael King noted that there was no Ute 2 site. Terry Hertel will modify the matrix and send the revised product out to group members for comment.

Pollution Rose Critique

Ted showed the group a map of the study area with “average pollutant concentration zones” for sites that were superimposed on the map. The shape of these zones indicated possible remote influences. The group also reviewed three different kinds of pollution plots that were generated by NMED/AQB; a pollution scatter plot, a polar plot, and a pollution rose. The group thought that the pollution rose would best depict pollution data for any given site. The format of the particular pollution rose shown was not conducive to black and white photocopying, so another type of pollution rose used by CDPHE was chosen for use by the group. Ted’s idea of superimposing plots on a map will be used when presenting the pollution roses for the various criteria pollutants. Gordon Pierce and Terry Hertel will work on producing the pollution roses. These plot/map products would be part of a report appendix.

Mercury Monitoring

Koren gave the group an update on a total mercury bulk deposition monitoring program that the Mountain Studies Institute is involved in. The program is comprised of snow pack monitoring, lake water sample testing, and lake sediment testing.

Koren also addressed an air quality outreach program that is being developed, and was interested in getting peer review input from people in the group.

Ozone Monitors and Nephelometers in SW Colorado

There was discussion regarding possible recommendation of placement of some nephelometers in the SW Colorado area for visibility monitoring capabilities. Gordon explained the difference between a transmissometer and a nephelometer. This discussion also addressed ozone monitor placement at some point in time.

Gordon presented a Power Point "Ozone Trends in the Four Corners Area 1990-09/2006. Following Gordon's presentation, there was discussion regarding temporary ozone monitoring in populated areas and passive ozone sampling.

Mitigation Options

The group was asked about issues regarding tagged mitigation options, as in why very few folks had responded. The group addressed Issues such as time availability, expertise, jurisdictional questions, and requests that the whole tagged option be sent instead of a synopsis of the option; gets back to the time issue.

Preferred Time Slot

The group consensus was that the new time slot was better.

Conference Calls:

2nd Monday of every month @ 2:00-3:30 PM MST starting in December